



The Road to Boston: Counterterrorism Challenges & Lessons from the Marathon Bombings House Homeland Security Committee Report

Findings and Recommendations

The Committee's Report identifies four areas for continued improvement in counterterrorism efforts with corresponding recommendations:

Cooperation between federal and local law enforcement can be improved

- The Fusion Centers owned and operated by state and local law enforcement agencies should be supplied with greater independent access to the Guardian System (the FBI's terror database)
- The Memoranda of Understandings (MOU) between the Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTF) and state and local entities should be amended to allow for sharing information with state and local law enforcement without seeking supervisor approval. Equally important, leadership of all law agencies on the JTTFs should constantly encourage collaboration and sharing between members

Policy surrounding the use of travel records and the screening of international travelers can be refined

- The records of each traveler of concern should be properly screened
- The sharing of alerts and notifications should be documented electronically among members of the JTTFs and within member agencies

There is room for information sharing with regard to various terror/travel watch lists at the federal level

- The Committee recommends agencies provide all the information available to them in their nominations to terror watch lists and other databases

Over the long-term, more sophisticated efforts are required to mitigate terrorist threats

- Efforts to educate the public on the terrorist threat (such as the See Something, Say Something campaign) need to be refined and evaluated
- Intelligence and law enforcement agencies at the federal and state and local levels need to be constantly evaluating and improving their efforts to investigate and mitigate terrorist threats